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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Dear Senator Cranston:

I am pleased to reply to your letter of January 11 requesting on behalf of Dr. Ricardo Ontiveros information concerning the detention in Argentina of nine prisoners.

These prisoners were apparently arrested at about the same time as Olga Talamante, an American citizen, who was arrested on November 10, 1974. Ms. Talamante was released shortly after the present military government took power in March 1976 as a result of diplomatic approaches by the United States government.

Since the other individuals involved are Argentine nationals, we suggest that you advise Dr. Ontiveros that he write to the Argentine Embassy, 1600 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

As an alternative, and since we understand that Ms. Talamante has presented her case to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States, you may wish to advise Dr. Ontiveros to write to the Commission, Room 622, Cafritz Building, 1625 I Street, N. W. Washington, D. C.

I hope this information will be helpful to you in replying to Dr. Ontiveros.

Sincerely yours,

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Kempton B. Jenkins
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned. Drafted: ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
1/19/77:x29166:#002-191-

The Honorable

Alan Cranston,

United States Senate

Clearances:

ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann